



Course Specification Part A

MSc Accounting and Financial Management FBLT041

MSc in Accounting and Financial Management (Professional Experience*) FBLT081

Faculty of Business and Law

School of Economics, Finance and Accounting

Academic Year: 2021/22

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

*The course award title will be MSc Accounting and Financial Management. The reference to Professional Experience is based on 2 taught semesters, and up to 3 semesters on placement followed by 1 final taught semester.

PART A Course Specification
MSc Accounting & Financial Management

1. Introduction

The MSc Accounting & Financial Management (and its extended version 'with Professional Experience') is one of a portfolio of MSc degrees offered by the Economics, Finance and Accounting (EFA) school that have been designed in line with the University's mission statement. It seeks to develop enterprising and globally-orientated postgraduates who are equipped to cope in a world of constant transformation and increasing complexity. Offering an international student experience, a wide range of internship opportunities and practical integration between theory and practice, the course will develop the skills most valued by employers.

By design, the MSc Accounting & Financial Management (and its extended version 'with Professional Experience') is a specialist course that seeks to educate and prepare students for a range of careers within the finance professions but with a particular focus on accountancy. However, the nature of accounting and financial management and its relevance to any and all organisations means graduates will also be in a position to explore other business careers, public sector jobs or pursue their own entrepreneurial ventures.

Academic staff teaching on the programme are a combination of finance professionals with years of experience in practice and industry, and academics with active research interests. Each is able to bring their individual strengths and expertise into the teaching and learning context and utilise it to enhance the students' learning experience and ensure the students benefit from a combination of both theoretical and practical activities.

The extended 2-year MSc with Professional Experience is only available as full-time and has been designed for those who wish to gain professional experiences as part of their study to enhance their employability.

The MSc Accounting and Financial Management with professional experience pathway is an extended full-time Masters with a substantive professional experience component. Students who would like to undertake a professional experience will have to apply by the given deadline. Professional experience placements are subject to a competitive application and selection process and the host organisation may include the University or Students' Union. Placements may be paid or unpaid, and this will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Students will have to successfully complete a significant reflective piece supported by their placement to pass the Professional Experience module(s). Placements are subject to availability and a competitive selection process. Although the University will provide support and help source placement opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful to find a placement by the university deadline will continue on the 12 month MSc Accounting and Financial Management.

Distinctive Features:

The MSc Accounting & Financial Management programme covers many of the areas covered by most Chartered Accountancy bodies in the UK. Financial and Management accountancy are covered in Financial Statement Analysis, Corporate Finance and Advanced Management Accounting, which are really fundamental subject areas. Ethical issues are really emphasised within the accountancy profession and this important area is covered within Corporate Governance and Ethics. Audit and Assurance again is a fundamentally important subject area as audit & assurance provides confidence in financial statements and other public documents. Financial Risk Management and Quantitative Methods provides some of the technical detail required in the field and Business Strategy and the Entrepreneurial Practice modules provides an insight into the strategic and leadership skills which are required by accountants as they progress into management.

Students will have access to the specialist finance software on the Trading floor available to all of our accountancy and finance students as well as the vast resources available at the library in either physical or digital format.

The course encourages transformative learning by incorporating research inspired teaching as many of the Academics are active researchers in the area which will be reflected in their teaching. Many of the modules will encourage research inspired teaching through the use of numerous real - world, country specific case studies which will enhance the student learning experience. Additionally, students will be taught research skills and have to undertake a research project individually, either in the form of a dissertation or internship project giving them real exposure to research in a move towards greater independent learning.

It will incorporate embedded employability as EFA has a dedicated postgraduate Talent Team Tutor who will not only provide specialist support and guidance on the UK and international recruitment process but will also build relationships with external local and national organisations to generate project opportunities and networking opportunities. In addition, many of the modules will encourage the development of transferable skills via team work and assessment which is essential for successful employment. These will provide students the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative in complex and unpredictable professional environments. Additionally, students will learn creativity as they will be expected to demonstrate originality and self-direction in their application of relevant knowledge to new and complex situations in their assignment tasks. Creativity will be further enhanced when students undertake either an individual or group research project either in the form of a dissertation or internship project and undertake enquiry based learning.

Intercultural and international engagement will be embedded within the course as the content itself is of a global nature whereby, students will understand the complexities of modern day finance in a global context.

Innovation and digital literacy will also be embedded in the course as students will have exposure to specialist software such as Bloomberg, Datastream and Fitch Connect. They will also have access to econometric software such as Microsoft Excel and Gretl. Additionally, students will be encouraged to use numerous online sources for additional reading and research purposes as well as the use of Aula for online learning to enhance their personalised learning.

Students will participate in an interactive and internationally diverse learning environment and have the potential for international trips through the Global Leaders Programme (GLP).

As part of this course you will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, you will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MSc in Accounting & Financial Management	Full time - 1 year (2 years with professional experience)	Not applicable	Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting & Financial Management			
Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting & Financial Management	Part time - 2 years		

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University
4 Collaboration	None
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	July 2019
7 Course Accredited by	Not applicable
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	Not applicable

9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	<p>There are no specific QAA postgraduate Subject Benchmark statements relating to Finance. However there are generic benchmark statements (see link below) relating to Business and Management which have been developed in collaboration with the Association of Business Schools and these have been incorporated into the design, assessment and delivery of this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Postgraduate Business and Management Subject Benchmark statements can be found at: <p>http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/BusinessManagementMasters.pdf</p>
10 Date of Course Specification	March 2021
11 Course Director	Christopher Lees

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

This programme provides students with an opportunity to further develop their studies in the area of accounting and financial management but within a broader managerial context. The emphasis of the programme is on interpreting, evaluating and communicating accounting and financial information and for understanding the role of business and organisations especially when they make strategic and managerial decisions. In addition, students will also have the opportunity to explore areas of financial risk management.

The programme incorporates a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) accredited module, 7050CRB Entrepreneurial Practice. Students who successfully complete the module, will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

The programme seeks to enhance students' knowledge and understanding and skills of critical analysis through an in-depth study of key issues relating to the subject matter of the programme, for example - corporate finance, , financial statement analysis and advanced management accounting.

All module descriptors illustrate intended learning outcomes in addition to those identified in the course specification document and these are all written in accordance with the QAA's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Qualification Descriptors.

Educational Aims

The educational aims of this course are to:

- Enable students to develop an understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relating to accounting and financial management and provide an opportunity to enhance Masters level knowledge, understanding and skills tailored towards preparing them for studying professional accounting qualifications.
- Provide students with an opportunity to develop and apply key concepts, theories and principles to a wide range of problems in accountancy and financial management
- Create an environment to develop and demonstrate independent and collaborative research capability and present solutions to complex accountancy and financial management problems.
- Equip its graduates with a range of employability skills, attributes and attitudes and develop them into effective problem-solvers who can advise local and international individuals and organisations on a range of accountancy and financial management related matters through the use of the skills and understanding developed on the course.

The aforementioned educational aims align with the QAA framework for higher education qualifications descriptors at Level 7 whereby students are required to have a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary problems. In addition, students will develop originality in the application of knowledge and develop

conceptual understanding enabling them to critically evaluate current research, as well as develop a range of transferable skills necessary for employment.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to:

1. Evaluate in depth the literature in accounting and finance, and apply it to real world situations.
 2. Critically evaluate current issues in Accounting and Financial Management.
 3. Critically apply advanced mathematical and statistical techniques for financial and investment analysis.
 4. Critically evaluate the interactions of financial markets and corporate financial management and strategies.
 5. Demonstrate the ability to prepare, develop, write up and manage research projects.
 6. Critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and entrepreneurial practice in strategic contexts.
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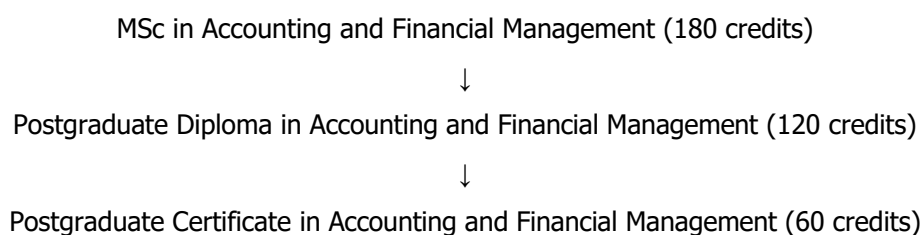
14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

Students must pass all mandatory modules and they must undertake and pass the Project module if they are to be awarded a `Masters' title. All modules are assigned 15 credits, except for the Project module (7055EFA) which carries 50 credits and the Entrepreneurial Practice (7050CRB) module which carries 10 credits.

The programme incorporates a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) accredited module, 7050CRB Entrepreneurial Practice. Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and Developing People to Optimise Performance (Unit 702); Entrepreneurial Practice (Unit 711). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation `fCMgr' after their name.

Cascade of Awards:

The cascade of awards is as follows:



The table below shows how each module contributes to the overall learning outcomes of the course:

Module code	Module title	Credit value	Pre/Co requisite	Course Learning Outcomes
7032EFA	Business Strategy	15	None	1,2
7029EFA	Governance, Accountability and Ethics	15	None	1
7002EFA	Corporate Finance	15	None	1,2
7005EFA	Quantitative Methods	15	None	1,3
7036EFA	Auditing and Assurance	15	None	1,2
7033EFA	Advanced Management Accounting	15	None	1,2
7049EFA	Financial Statement Analysis	15	None	1,2
7035EFA	Financial Risk Management	15	None	1,4
7055EFA	Project	50	None	1 - 5
7050CRB	Entrepreneurial Practice	10	None	6

Students can take a maximum of 60 credits per semester.

In addition to the above, students undertaking professional experience must also undertake a module for each of the 3 semesters they are on placement which are zero credit and based on a pass/fail assessment. The professional experience must be undertaken after 2 semesters of taught modules and before the final semester for the Postgraduate Project and CMI module.

(Depending on the length of placement students undertaking professional experience will study 1, 2 or 3 of the modules below. A student taking a one semester placement will take 7034EFA, a student taking a two semester placement will take 7034EFA and 7057EFA and a student taking a three semester placement will take all three modules.)

7056EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 1	0	None	
7057EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 2	0	None	
7034EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 3	0	None	

Internships as part of the 7055EFA Project module are subject to availability and a competitive application process.

Professional Experience opportunities are subject to availability and competitive application process. They are not guaranteed by the University. Although the University will provide support and help source opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful in finding a placement by the University deadline will continue on the standard MSc Accounting and Financial Management programme. Please note that for Tier 4 students you will need to apply and secure a visa extension before you can go on placement and you must ensure that your placement dates comply with your Visa requirements.

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The course is subject to the general University admission procedures and access policies. To be accepted for the course students must possess either:

- (a) an honours undergraduate degree (minimum of 2:2) in an appropriate business or finance background

OR

- (b) appropriate work experience in the financial sector together with relevant professional qualifications.

Careful monitoring of applications to ensure that successful applicants are suited to the course takes place. Where necessary, applicants are interviewed, especially those that do not appear to meet standard admissions criteria. Where deemed appropriate, a written exercise may be administered to establish suitability.

- In the case of overseas applicants, an adequate proficiency in English must be demonstrated. This would normally be a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent.
- Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) is in accordance with University regulations.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations](#) Postgraduate Mode R

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the Economics, Finance and Accountancy Board of Study of the Faculty of Business and Law.

The Progression and Awards Board (PAB) for Faculty of Business and Law is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards,

- The course has been designed in accordance with the QAA benchmark statement for Finance (February 2106).
- Coventry Business School is ranked by EDUNIVERSAL in the 'Excellent Business School' (3 Palme's) worldwide category. EDUNIVERSAL provides a ranking and information system for students in order to help decide which Business School to study at (<http://eduniversal-ranking.com/>).
- Coventry Business School has signed up to 'The Principles for Responsible Management Education' (PRME) initiative <http://www.unprme.org/>. PRME has 6 principles, including; Purpose, Values, Method, Research, Partnership and Dialogue. All 6 principles of PRME are practiced in the course.

- The School has a strong portfolio of active researchers who regularly publish in peer reviewed internationally recognised publications. It also operates its own applied research working papers series.
- External Examiner reports point to the quality of the current MSc courses offered within EFA which have been strongly commended. This course would complement the already successful suite of postgraduate courses offered within EFA.
- The Guardian University Guide 2018 ranked the university 13th overall (of 121 universities).
- The University was ranked in the top 4% of worldwide higher education institutions in 2014 by QS World University Rankings
- University of the Year, 2015 at the Times Higher Education Awards (2015)
- Modern University of the Year for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The QAA's Higher Education Review undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets the UK expectations regarding the:

- setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards;
- quality of student learning opportunities;
- quality of the information about learning opportunities;
- enhancement of student learning opportunities

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

- Course Handbooks, available from the module web page
 - Module Guides which are produced for all modules and are available on the Aula Module page
 - Module Information Directory (MID)
<https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebNext/Main.aspx>
 - Study Support information is accessible from the home page of the Coventry University Student Portal
<https://students.coventry.ac.uk/Pages/index.aspx>
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